Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A cross fader including:

a first optocoupler for receiving and transmitting a first signal, said first optocoupler including a first space through which said first signal is optically communicated;

a second optocoupler for receiving and transmitting a second signal, said second optocoupler including a second space through which said second signal is optically communicated; and

a shutter means with a range of travel, wherein at a first position in said range of travel, said shutter means is inserted into said first space thereby at least attenuating said first signal, and wherein at a second position in said range of travel, said shutter means is inserted into said second space thereby at least attenuating said second signal.

2. (original) The cross fader of Claim 1 wherein said shutter means is a blade shutter.

3. (currently amended) The cross fader of Claim 2 wherein an output signal is generated which is the sum of a first fraction of said first signal plus a second fraction of said second signal, wherein said first position is at a first end of said range of travel, [[and]] wherein said second position is at a second end of said range of travel, wherein intermediate positions within said range of travel continuously vary attenuation of said first signal and said second signal, wherein movement of said shutter means in a first direction increases said first fraction while decreasing said second fraction and wherein movement of said shutter means in a second direction, opposite to said first direction, decreases said first fraction while increasing said second fraction.

4. (original) The cross fader of Claim 3 wherein said first and second optocouplers are C-shaped with a mouth through which said blade shutter enters said first and second spaces, respectively.

5. (currently amended) The cross fader of Claim 4 wherein said blade shutter is mechanically responsive to a stem which passes through a slot in a surface of said cross fader to affix to a knob, wherein a user manipulates said knob to move said blade shutter within said range of travel.

6. (original) The cross fader of Claim 5 wherein guide rods define a direction of said range of travel.

7. (original) The cross fader of Claim 6 wherein said blade shutter is mounted on a support structure, said support structure including apertures through which said guide rods pass.

8. (original) The cross fader of Claim 7 wherein said knob is moved linearly along a path defined by said slot in order to move said blade shutter along said range of travel.

9. (original) The cross fader of Claim 8 wherein said range of travel includes a range of positions wherein said blade shutter is free from insertion into said first and second spaces.

10. (original) The cross fader of Claim 9 wherein said first and second optocouplers are mounted on a p.c. board, said p.c. board forming an interior surface of a chassis.

11. (original) The cross fader of Claim 10 wherein a face plate with mounting apertures is secured to said chassis.